

"From the Pastor's Desk"—Annual Pastoral Message (12/25/2001)

The Holy Family: Target of the First Terrorist Attack

On the first Christmas, our Savior Jesus Christ was born. There has been no greater moment in the history of the world. By Christ's birth, life, and eventual death on the cross, God the Father would restore grace to the human race. Of course, individual human beings must cooperate. Each soul is obliged to use his free will and say "yes" to God. By God's goodness, the grace is there for the asking. Salvation has now become possible! Deo Gratias!

Bethlehem and the Terrorists

In a stable at Bethlehem, not far from Jerusalem, the Virgin Mary gave birth to her divine Son.

The three wise men, through a miraculous sign, followed their star. When they stopped at Jerusalem, King Herod became aware that Christ the King had entered a world anxiously awaiting the Redeemer.

In a pique of hatred and jealousy, Herod sought the death of Jesus. To guarantee the success of his evil intent, he ordered that all male children, two years old or younger, be murdered. Dozens of terrorists, swords in hand, were commissioned by Herod to carry out the attack. Forcing themselves into the homes of startled families, young babies were snatched from their cribs. Swords were plunged into their infant bodies.

The protests of the mothers went unheeded. Fathers tried to fight off the murderous intruders, to no avail. The terrorists were savage, determined, cold, and heartless. After all, they were following the dictates of the evil and tyrannical King Herod.

The Church commemorates this day of infamy on the Feast of the Holy Innocents (December 28). It goes to show us to what lengths the enemies of Christianity will go to destroy the memory of Christ Jesus: His Church, His doctrines, His moral law, His Sacraments.

Modern Enemies

Sometimes, the enemy is in plain sight. He can be externally militant—as were the Islamic radicals who attacked innocent Americans in New York and Washington, DC. (So also was Herod by his bloody

massacre.) History repeats itself. In the 1500s, Islam attempted to destroy Christianity and western culture. By God's providence, at the crucial Battle of Lepanto, the enemy was turned back.

Not all enemies of Christ are on the *outside*, with their swords and guns. Modernists and liberals have infiltrated into high places and places of influence. These internal, silent terrorists have drained off devotion, morals, and tradition from most parish churches.

These subtle modernists—with their smiling faces, hearty handshakes, pretenses of joy and fake charity—are determined to bring down the Church to destruction. At first, we saw the altar of sacrifice replaced by an ironing board; then altar rails removed, communion in the hand, the empty gestures of the Novus Ordo. But this was only the beginning. These first changes were merely cosmetic. The goal was much more profound: *to destroy doctrine and morals.*

Mission Accomplished

In almost every Novus Ordo parish, the pristine teachings of Jesus Christ are ignored and forgotten. All or most of these Catholic doctrines are no longer taught or practiced:

1. Belief in sin, purgatory, and hell.
2. The absolute need for Baptism and the sacrament of Penance.
3. The indissolubility of marriage, as well as the primary purpose of marriage, viz., procreation.
4. The intrinsic evil of abortion, contraception and homosexuality.
5. Transubstantiation and the sacrificial nature of the Mass (death of Jesus for our sins).
6. The necessity to comply with the Ten Commandments.
7. The divine mandate to baptize and convert all people and all nations.
8. Great admiration, love, and intercession of the saints.
9. The divinity of Jesus Christ, all His miracles, and His divine duty as Judge of the living and the dead.

Our Role to Play

There it is! History tells us that Jesus, Mary and Joseph were assailed from the beginnings of Christianity. These attacks—probably orchestrated by Satan—continue through the years.

The remedy: We must use the graces of Confirmation. This sacrament is given to form the Church *Militant* (not the Church *Pacifist*, or the Church *Apathetic*).

Attend and build up Traditional Chapels. Bring wandering, confused, marginal souls back to the True Mass, and to Christ, and toward salvation.

We are reminded of the words of the little flower, St. Thérèse:

*There are so few of us that love Jesus,
that those of us who do ... should love
Him very much.*

Conclusion

The thoughts of Bethlehem and the goodness of God to send us His only begotten Son should inspire us. Meditation on that first Christmas should make us "love Him very much."

A blessed Christmas to all,